

Project LAUNCH

Arizona

Project Launch (***Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health***) is a groundbreaking new federal program to promote physical and mental wellness in young children from birth to age eight. Over five years, state, tribal and local grantees will support vulnerable children and families as early as possible with research-based community programs relevant to their culture. Each will provide a model for promoting positive physical and emotional health to remediate child, family and community risk factors. Active partnerships between the state and local communities will sustain services that work and spread them to other communities across that state.

Tapestry Project

The Tapestry Project will promote young child wellness in the South Mountain area of Phoenix by improving access to mental health and wellness services, promoting developmental screenings in many settings, integrating behavioral health into primary care, improving parenting skills, and promoting early childhood social and emotional development.

The South Mountain area of Phoenix has one of the state's highest concentrations of adult and juvenile offenders returning from prison or detention, or on probation. Family and community conditions include incarceration, involvement with Child Protective Services, educational deficits, and economic and family instability which put children at extreme risk.

GOALS:

- To build a solid state infrastructure to implement a comprehensive early childhood system of care for Arizona's young children;
- To deliver local family-centered services for Arizona's highest need young children and their families; and
- To promote positive social and emotional development and mental health for young children and their families.

STRATEGIES:

The Tapestry project will implement five evidence-based programs locally:

- Incredible Years
- Parents as Teachers
- Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities
- Parenting Wisely
- Healthy Steps

The project will take the unique approach of coordinating local services through the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, which is already providing family support for grandparents raising grandchildren. Additionally, Project LAUNCH funds will enhance new partnerships between state, city and county agencies focused on youth development, crime prevention and positive family outcomes.

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EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

The expected outcomes for The Tapestry Project include:

- Development of positive and nurturing parenting;
- Increased positive behaviors/decreased negative behaviors of children at school and at home;
- Prevention of child abuse and neglect;
- Reduction of juvenile delinquency;
- Reduction/prevention of domestic violence;
- Increased access to mental health and wellness programs; and
- Improved allocation of resources for young children among and across state, local, and federal agencies.

The Project LAUNCH grant will enable families and children in the area to benefit from additional resources to support early childhood development and address the root causes that lead to juvenile and adult criminal activity and incarceration.

Project Contacts

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